

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:231
ANSWERED ON:12.03.2010
GUARDING INTERESTS OF SINGLE WOMEN
Majumdar Shri Prasanta Kumar; Tirkey Shri Manohar

Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) : whether the Government is aware of the difficult conditions of single women in the country;
- (b) : if so, the details thereof;
- (c) : whether any scheme has been formulated or is proposed to be formulated for protecting the interests of the single women like widows, working women and deserted women; and
- (d) : if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH)

(a) to (d): A Statement is laid on the table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 231 TO BE ANSWERED ON 12TH MARCH, 2010 ASKED BY SHRI PRASANTA KUMAR MAJUMDAR REGARDING GUARDING INTEREST OF SINGLE WOMEN

(a) & (b) Yes, Madam; As per 2001 Census, there are 32.30 million widows and 2.34 million divorced and separated women in the country. Single women face problems of, non-acceptance, loneliness, security and economic livelihood. This makes them vulnerable to exploitation by the society.

(c) & (d) The Ministry of Women and Child Development is implementing following four schemes to protect the interest of single women, widows, working women and deserted women etc:

- i. Swadhar and Short Stay Homes for relief and rehabilitation of women in difficult circumstances - Single women who do not have family and societal support, can avail benefits of shelter, food, medical care, training etc., being provided under these schemes;
- ii. Working Women Hostel Scheme - any single working women can avail the facility of accommodation in these hostels;
- iii. Support for Training & Employment Programme (STEP) - Skill Upgradation Training is provided to assetless and Below Poverty Line women including single women.

Apart from these, Ministry of Rural Development has been administering the following three schemes:

(i) Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme (IGNWPS) under which pension is provided to a widow in the age group of 40-64 years and living below poverty line @ Rs. 200/- per month;

(ii) Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme under which a pension of Rs.200/- per month is provided to the persons above sixty five years of age belonging to BPL including single women; and

(iii) NREGA, under which willing persons including single women are entitled to guaranteed 100 days employment during a year.

Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment has been administering an Integrated Programme for Older Persons (IPOP) which is being implemented since 1992 with the objective of improving the quality of life of senior citizens including women by providing basic amenities like shelter, food, medical care etc.